GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5402
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2000
BORDER TRADE
PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government are taking any steps to facilitate border trade in North-Eastern Region with neighbouring countries i.e. Bangladesh, China, Myanmar and Bhutan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a)&(b) The Central Government evolves plans and policies to increase border trade on a continuos basis. The specific steps taken in this direction include :

(i) The border townships of Moreh(Manipur), Dawki(Meghalaya), Zokhawthar(Mizoram) and Sutarkhandi (Assam) Land Customs Stations (LCSs) are proposed to be developed over the next two years at a total cost of Rs. 20.00 crores.

(ii) Under the Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme so far 13 projects have been sanctioned for Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura. Rs. 16.4397 Crores have been sanctioned for these projects which cover development of roads, improvement of power supply to exporting units, installation of weighbridges at LCSs, construction of composite building and establishment of Trade Centre.

(iii) NH 31 in Assam, NH Nos. 40,51 and 62 in Meghalaya, NH 44 in Tripura and NH 39 in Manipur connecting neighboring countries are being maintained in a traffic worthy condition within the availability of funds. NH from Karimaganj town to Sutarkhandi on Indo-Bangladesh border in Assam has been declared as NH 51.

(iv) An Empowered Committee has been set up to examine the recommendations made by the Inter Ministerial Task Force on `Border Trade and Inter-Country Trade Issues in North East`.Department of Commerce has commissioned a transport optimisation study in the North East region, through Rail India Technical and Economic Consultancy Services